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Message Text

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S/ S - MR. D. MILLER
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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130470

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ANZUS, PARM

FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN FROM SNEIDER

SUBJ: DATE AND PLACE OF ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING

REF: CANBERRA 3581

1. THANKS FOR MOST HELPFUL REFTEL. WHILE WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN RE NEED FOR EARLY DECISION ON TIMING, VENUE, AND US REPRESENTATION AT ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING PRIOR WHITLAM VISIT, THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES. SECRETARY WILL BE OUT OF COUNTRY MUCH OF JULY AND WILL PROBABLY WANT TO ASSESS PRIORITIES CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING FUTURE TRAVEL COMMITMENTS.

2. SOME OF POSSIBILITIES DISCUSSED IN REFTEL CAN BE
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PRETTY WELL RULED OUT: (A) JULY 31 IN WASHINGTON IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF CONFLICT WITH TANAKA VISIT AND PM KIRK' S STATED INABILITY VISIT WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME. (B) HONOLULU AROUND AUGUST 11 ALSO APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO PM KIRK' S SCHEDULE, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON. (C) WE UNDERSTAND SEPTEMBER IN NEW YORK DURING UNGA (ASSUMING ATTENDANCE BY WHITLAM AND KIRK) WOULD BE MOST UNWELCOME TO GOA AND GNZ FOR ANZUS MEETING GIVEN THEIR DESIRE NOT TO LINK ANZUS

MATTERS TO SEATO DOWNGRADING. (VARIENT ON THIS, AGAIN ASSUMING PRESENCE OF BOTH AT UNGA, COULD BE TO HAVE ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, SEPARATED AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS FROM SEATO COUNCIL MEETING, BUT THIS IDEA WOULD COST BOTH WHITLAM AND KIRK TIME AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT AVOID ANZUS/ SEATO ASSOCIATION IN MINDS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN AUSTRALIA/ NZ. KIRK MAY ALSO WISH TO USE UNGA VISIT TO CALL ON PRESIDENT IN RESPONSE TO RECENT INVITATION.)

3. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR EARLY DECISION ON ANZUS, BUT WOULD IN MEANTIME APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MAY GAIN ON ALTERNATIVES ACCEPTABLE TO GOA LATER IN YEAR. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
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